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## Letters to the Editor

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# From Your (combating-technology) Editor:

It has been one of those months. Every machine in my life seems to be breaking down. First, it was the car which I have inherited from my daughter. The brakes didn't seem to be working. It cost money. Big money! to fix them. Second, my computer at work decided not to print. Nothing I (or even the techies) could do seemed to work. It was like there was some gremlin on my desktop. And, then, the last straw!! My answering machine broke! I mean it! My answering machine acted like it was taking messages if someone called it, but when I looked at messages left for me, there were none. (Sounds like an Agatha Christie mystery.) I threw up my hands and thought about retiring. But that would still take machines, I guess.

Meanwhile, back at the *ATG* world headquarters, *ATG* did not fail. There were articles and rumors coming in fast and furious. So, this issue is full of tons of great news and feature articles. This issue is guest edited by Ann-

**Marie Breaux** and has many perspectives on the upcoming **ISBN-13** phenomenon and how it will affect us. Also, there are interviews with **Troy Williams** about what's going on at **Questia** and **Eckart Scheffler** at **deGruyter** (this one on p.80). We have a new column by the energetic **Cris Ferguson**. The **Op Ed** is a reaction to an **I User** column, pretty great! **Legally Speaking** is on the top ten intellectual property cases of the last twenty-five years, **Biz of Acq** has some management tips for recent library school graduates, and **Back Talk** is on catastrophes in libraries. Speaking of catastrophes, my husband says the oven is not working. Our supper is not cooked. Jeez! I guess it's back to eating out. At least it's spring!

Yr. Ed. 



## Rumors from page 1

approximately 2,500 English language titles, and **de Gruyter** then handled its own distribution from a location in Elmsford N.Y. In 1978 Mr. Scheffler started a New York publishing operation with the acquisition of **Aldine Publishing Company**, and **Mr. Scheffler** successfully integrated this new venture. With a staff of 20 and a strong increase in sales volume, **de Gruyter** moved to much larger quarters in Hawthorne N.Y. In 1982 **Mr. Scheffler** acquired the rights to the reference work **American Universities and Colleges**, which had not been published for many years, and transformed it to the most successful title for **de Gruyter's** U.S. operation over five editions. In 2004 **Mr. Scheffler** handled all aspects of the successful sale of the **Aldine** imprint to **Transaction Publishers**, the sale of **American Universities and Colleges** to **Greenwood Press**, and the outsourcing of distribution to **Books International**. **Mr. Scheffler** will serve as a consultant to **de Gruyter** until the end of June 2005. We will miss him, but I hope he still slips to Charleston some day soon! Good luck, **Eckart** and don't rest too hard! And, be sure and see our interview with **Eckart**, which contains some hints about the future... This issue, p.80.

**More on de Gruyter.** As of March 2005 **Patrick Alexander**, presently Publishing Director, will be in charge of **Walter de Gruyter, Inc.**, in New York. For more than 250 years, the independent scientific publishing house **Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co. KG, Berlin & New York**, has published titles ranging from the humanities, medicine, and biosciences to law. **De Gruyter** publishes more than 250 new titles every year, half of them in English, approximately 60 journals, and a variety of digital products. Hopefully, we will have an interview with **Patrick** upcoming in June. Stay tuned! [www.degruyter.com/](http://www.degruyter.com/)

In the February issue of *Against the Grain* (p.16), we told you that we would tell you more. The awesomely energetic **William Gosling** <[wgosling@umich.edu](mailto:wgosling@umich.edu)> has announced that he is refocusing his energies after eight years in the top librarian position at the **University of Michigan**. **Bill** will take on a new set of responsibilities as of April 1, 2005. These new duties include serving as **Curator of the Children's Literature Collection** in the Special Collections Library. **Bill** will also continue to support Library fundraising programs. **James Hilton**, Associate Provost for Academic Information and Instructional Technology Affairs has been selected to serve as the Interim University Librarian on a part-time basis, pending approval by the Regents. Associate University Librarians **Brenda Johnson** and **John Wilkin** will manage the daily operations during this interim period. <http://www.umich.edu/news/index.html?Releases/2005/Feb05/r021705a>

**Gene Waddell** <[waddelle@cofc.edu](mailto:waddelle@cofc.edu)> tells us that **Wyrick and Company** in Charleston, SC, has just been sold to **Gibbs Smith, Publishers** which was begun in 1969. You'll remember that Gene wrote the book **Charleston Architecture: 1670-1860** published by Wyrick in November 2003. And, be sure and see his list of what he considers some of the best books in architecture, this issue p.53. [www.gibbs-smith.com/](http://www.gibbs-smith.com/)

The **Smithsonian Institution** has named **Lonnie G. Bunch** as the first director of the Na-

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## Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <[kstrauch@comcast.net](mailto:kstrauch@comcast.net)>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: **Against the Grain**, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the *ATG* Homepage at <http://www.against-the-grain.com>.



### Dear Editor:

I attempted to use the online form on the *ATG* Website to send a letter to the editor but received an error message:

The page cannot be found. The page you are looking for might have been removed, had its name changed, or is temporarily unavailable.

**Robert Behra**

Science and Engineering Division, J. Willard Marriott Library  
295 S 1500 E, Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0860

**Editor's note:** Y'all — we have been having problems with the *ATG* Website. But it is fixed now and updated. If you still have trouble, please

let us know. And the rest of this communication is in **Op Ed**, see p.40.

Yr. Ed. <[kstrauch@comcast.net](mailto:kstrauch@comcast.net)> 

## AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES VOLUME 17 — 2005-2006

2005 Events	Issue	Ad Reservation	Camera-Ready
ALA Annual, AALL	June 2005	04/27/05	05/11/05
Reference Publishing	September 2005	07/27/05	08/10/05
Charleston Conference	November 2005	09/21/05	10/05/05
ALA Midwinter	Dec. 05/Jan. 06	11/23/05	12/07/05

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